

SECRET**CHRONO***Central A*OLL 84-3140/3
6 July 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Reading of the Inspector General (IG) Report on Death Squads by Mike O'Neil, Counsel for House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI)

1. Mike O'Neil visited Headquarters on the afternoon of 5 July 1984 to meet privately with the Director, Office of Legislative Liaison, Charles Briggs, and to read the IG's report on Agency involvement with death squads written by [redacted] and published on 8 June 1984. O'Neil spent over one hour reading the report and taking a few notes for later referral. I will send the notes to him this coming week via classified courier. 25X1

2. O'Neil said he thought this was a fairly good report. He was somewhat concerned, however, that reporting on death squads is a number one priority for [redacted] and yet we know very little about the people who are involved in right wing violence. I explained to O'Neil that it was very difficult for us to collect against death squads since we were prohibited by Executive Order from becoming involved with anyone who takes part in assassinations. In order to collect on death squads we need someone who is actively involved, and there comes a time when these agents will be called on to play an active role in order to establish their bona fides. At this point we have to disengage from the operation and do all within our power to prevent the asset from participating. In the past this has involved delicate problems. I told O'Neil I didn't really know what the answer was to this dilemma, but that we had the same problem dealing with the terrorist target. 25X1

3. O'Neil said that the death squad issue would not be going away. Members, to include Shannon, are still after the Committee to investigate the death squad issue. O'Neil said the Chairman has told Shannon that the Agency is doing the investigation, but this did not seem to satisfy Shannon. According to O'Neil, Shannon told the Chairman that he did not trust the Agency to carry out a fair investigation of its own, especially on such a sensitive 25X1

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matter; he urged the Chairman to launch his own investigation. O'Neil said he did not know what would happen ultimately, but he was quite certain that we would be getting more questions on the whole death squad issue.

4. O'Neil said that at some point in the near future he would like to talk to [] about the report. I thought this could be worked out and indicated as much to O'Neil.

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Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison



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Chief, OLL/Liaison Division

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